

**Sent to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

**State Superintendent Stanford Taylor announced that as a result of looking at research on reading, the Department of Public Instruction has endorsed an emphasis on “explicit phonics instruction.” (Jan. 22). I think the Wisconsin DPI should read a little more.**

**Here is what recent research says: Children who have had intensive phonics instruction do better on tests in which they have to pronounce words presented on a list. But they don’t do better on tests in which they have to understand what they read. Children who do lots of reading for pleasure do better on both kinds of tests.**

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**A review of the research: Krashen, S. 2009. Does intensive reading instruction contribute to reading comprehension? Knowledge Quest 37 (4): 72-74. <https://tinurl.com/jc6x8mk>**